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It is our sincere hope that the contributions in this volume will be a fitting way in which we can pay tribute to the Center for its long association with Malaysianists and Malaysian scholars in the Southeast Asian region. For those of us who have had the privilege of being personally "involved" with the Center as visiting scholars, we hope that *Mediating Identities* will be a lasting symbol and testimony of the intellectual exchange between Southeast Asian and Japanese scholars involved in the similar pursuit of enriching our research, knowledge and understanding of Southeast Asian societies.

Editor of Special Volume on Malaysia
"Mediating Identities in a Changing Malaysia"

ZAWAWI IBRAHIM